

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 28, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 290.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom was referred the memorial of William Vance & Brothers, having had the same under consideration, report :*

That, in May and June, 1846, two companies of volunteers for the Mexican war to be under the command of Captains Boreland and Pike, in the regiment of Colonel Yell, were raised at Little Rock, Arkansas, and sent forward to Washington, in that State, to be mustered into the service. These companies, with others, were supplied with clothing and saddlery at the request of these officers; but, upon arriving at the place of muster, it was found that more troops had been sent forward than were requisite; the companies were too large, and the surplus were discharged without having been received.

When the account was presented at the treasury it was passed and allowed by the auditor, but the comptroller rejected it because the act of 2d June, 1848, only provided for repayment of advances made to troops which *were* mustered into the service, and the Secretary of War concurred in the decision; the amount is \$847 38.

The accounts are made out in proper form, and certified by the captains of the companies, and the governor of the State, in his letter to the Secretary of War, 9th June, 1847, says: "The liberal and praiseworthy conduct of these gentlemen, (Vance & Brothers,) in stepping forward in aid of the government at this particular time, in a manner known at the time to be somewhat hazardous, reflects the greatest credit upon them, and should entitle them in the settlement of their accounts \* \* \* to a slight departure from the rigid rules laid down for the government of the proper department for adjusting such claims."

In a similar case of A. S. Robinson, cashier of the bank of Missouri, Congress provided for reimbursement, with interest, of the amount advanced by that bank to volunteers assembled at St. Louis, under a requisition of General Gaines, with a view of being mustered into the service, but which were disbanded without being so received.

The committee report a bill for the relief of the memorialists, and recommend its passage.

